

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SS-15 H-02 AID-05 IGA-01

EB-07 L-03 SP-02 DODE-00 PM-03 USIE-00 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SY-05 TRSE-00 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /084 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT:LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT FROM CONGRESSMAN

RANGEL REGARDING TURKISH POPPY PRODUCTION

REF: STATE 129350

1. CONGRESSMAN RANGEL HAS WRITTEN TWO LETTERS TO THE
PRESIDENT, MAY 22 AND MAY 23, ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE MAY 22 LETTER:

"DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE NOW IN
TURKEY, I BELIEVE THAT IT IS URGENT TO EMPHASIZE THE FEEL-
ING OF MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THAT NO SATISFACTORY
AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED WITHOUT EFFECTIVE ACTION BY
THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF OPIUM
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GUM INTO ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFIC.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY LIFTED ITS BAN ON CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES UNILATERALLY AND IN VIOLATION OF EXECUTIVE AGREEMENTS, WITHOUT IMPOSING ADEQUATE CONTROLS ON THOSE GROWING, PROCESSING AND TRANSPORTING OPIUM POPPIES, POPPY STRAW OR OPIUM GUM.

"AS YOU RECALL, LAST AUGUST THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

UNANIMOUSLY PASSED H. CON. RES. 507 CALLING FOR AN END TO AID TO TURKEY UNTIL ADEQUATE CONTROLS ARE IMPOSED. I KNOW THAT THE CONCERN ON THE HILL HAS NOT LESSENED SINCE THEN. IN FACT, RECENT STATEMENTS BY THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION PREDICTING INCREASED SMUGGLING OF TURKISH-BASED OPIATES INTO THIS COUNTRY, TOGETHER WITH THE DEA ADMISSION THAT IT CANNOT STOP THAT SMUGGLING, ONLY INTENSIFIES CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN.

"I HOPE YOU WILL CONVEY THIS DEEP FEELING TO SECRETARY KISSINGER. IN ADDITION, I WOULD ASK THAT YOU ADVISE HIM TO REPORT TO CONGRESS ON HIS RETURN AS TO ANY NEGOTIATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS HE MAY HAVE HAD ON THE TURKISH OPIUM POPPY ISSUE. WITH BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, CHARLES B. RANGEL."

3. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE MAY 23 LETTER:

"DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: AS YOU KNOW, THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY HAS LIFTED ITS BAN ON THE PRODUCTION OF OPIUM POPPIES. THE MATURATION SEASON FOR THE 1975 CROP HAS JUST BEGUN. MATURATION AND HARVESTING WILL CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. ESTIMATES OF THE OUTPUT OF THIS CROP PUT IT AT 50 PER CENT GREATER THAN BEFORE THE BAN.

"WHEN THE BAN WAS LIFTED, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT MADE REPEATED PROMISES THAT ADEQUATE CONTROLS WOULD PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF OPIUM GUM INTO ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFIC. DESPITE THOSE VERBAL ASSURANCES, ADEQUATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTROLS HAVE NOT BEEN IMPOSED. OFFICIALS OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION PREDICT A SHARP INCREASE IN THE FLOW OF HEROIN PRODUCED FROM TURKISH POPPIES INTO THE UNITED STATES. IN ADDITION, DRUG ADDICTION AND ABUSE ARE CONTINUING AT AN EPIDEMIC RATE ACROSS THIS COUNTRY.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

HAS ADMITTED THAT IT CANNOT EFFECTIVELY STEM THE SMUGGLING OF NARCOTICS INTO OUR COUNTRY.

"FOR THESE REASONS, I AM ASKING YOU TO IMMEDIATELY SUSPEND ALL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY, PURSUANT TO YOUR AUTHORITY UNDER 22 U.S.C. SECTION 2291 (FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1971, INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROVISION). ALL AID SHOULD BE SUSPENDED UNTIL TURKEY ACTUALLY IMPOSES EFFECTIVE CONTROLS TO PREVENT NARCOTIC DRUGS PRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHIN TURKEY FROM ENTERING THE UNITED STATES.

"IN THE EVENT THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTES TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO, I ASK THAT ALL MILITARY AID ALSO BE SUSPENDED.

"MR. PRESIDENT, WHEN YOU RECENTLY TOOK DRASTIC ACTION TO RESCUE AMERICAN SEAMEN AND AN AMERICAN MERCHANT SHIP SEIZED BY CAMBODIA, YOU STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SHOWING THE WORLD THAT THE UNITED STATES INTENDED TO REMAIN STRONG. CERTAINLY WHEN THE LIVES OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OUR OWN YOUTH ARE ENDANGERED BY DRUGS, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD SHOW ITSELF TO BE STRONG.

"IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF THIS PROBLEM, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE ACTION PROMPTLY UNDER THE MANDATE GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT BY CONGRESS TO SUSPEND AID TO NATIONS WHICH DO NOT ADEQUATE CONTROL DRUG PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND TRAFFICKING. WITH BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, CHARLES B. RANGEL."

4. DRAFT REPLIES ARE DUE IN THE WHITE HOUSE BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS JUNE 10. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLOSE OF BUSINESS JUNE 9 YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE REPLY TO BE RECOMMENDED. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WHILE WE WISH TO GIVE THE TURKS FULL RECOGNITION AND CREDIT FOR WHATEVER CONTROL SYSTEM YOU CAN CURRENTLY REPORT HAS NOW BEEN PUT IN PLACE, AT THE SAME TIME WE MUST NOT OVERDRAW IT. WITH RESPECT TO DEA, WE CONTEMPLATE THAT THE REPLY WILL NOTE THE SPECIAL CONCERN OF THAT AGENCY, AND OF THE ENTIRE US GOVERNMENT, BECAUSE OF THE BACKGROUND OF TURKEY IN RELATION TO HEROIN IN THE US AND BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING SERIOUSNESS OF THE DRUG PROBLEM HERE, BUT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING DEA, IS NOT PREJUDGING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TURKISH CONTROLS. OUR BEST MATERIAL FOR RESPONDING WOULD APPEAR TO BE DESCRIBING IN AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE WHAT THE TURKS ARE DOING NOW BY WAY OF CONTROLS. WE ALSO

FERVENTLY HOPE THAT THE TURKISH-UN ARRANGEMENT WILL BE
PUBLICIZED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY SO THAT OUR REPLY CAN
IMPORTANTLY DRAW ON IT AS WELL. KISSINGER

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